

VIA: ~~SECRETARY OF THE ARMY~~

DISPATCH NO. FOOA 92478

**SECRET**  
**SECURITY INFORMATION**  
**CLASSIFICATION**

TO : Chief, E

- C AUG 1953

FROM : Chief of Mission, Frankfurt.

**SUBJECT: GENERAL—** Operational/CADRE

~~SECRET~~ Article from Der Spiegel

Attached hereto is a translation of an article entitled "Kriminalpolizei: Unsere Genossen sind zu lahm" which appeared in the 27 July 1953 issue of Der Spiegel, and which it is felt may be of interest to you.

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Der Spiegel, Issue of 29 July 1953

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Detective Force

OUR BOYS ARE TOO LAME

A short time ago Helmut Sczesny, a former detective, 65 Wolfgangstrasse, Frankfurt/M., received a letter which contained the following statement: ".... and now it is clear to me that everything you said 'in the interest of truth' was only said because the election campaign plans of the party demanded it."

The letter was signed by Paul Kurbjuhn, a reporter from Wiesbaden, who will shortly be summoned to court because of slanderous accusations. Kurbjuhn had published in three newspapers of North Hesse and in the "Deutscher Merkur" of Bremen, serious accusations against the office of the Chief of Police in Frankfurt and against some of its officials; the information he had received came from Helmut Sczesny.

Sczesny was once employed by the 12th (political) Commissariat of the Office of the Chief of Police in Frankfurt. He supplied Kurbjuhn with the following information, which Kurbjuhn had also published:

The 12th Commissariat of the Office of the Chief of Police in Frankfurt since 1950 has given secret information to the SPD; it has guarded the members of the SPD Executive Committee against political rivals; and it has given information to the Trade Unions that was obtained from inside the police department. Expenses for these activities were paid for from public funds.

SCZESNY was ordered by the head of the 12th Commissariat, the present (Kriminalrat) Johannes Ross, to mail all secret reports of political interest to Siegfried Artloff, 16 Oelen Strasse, Hannover, which is a cover address. All this material had, for security reasons, the following note attached: "Enclosed are the desired reports and we hope that they may be useful to you. Signed: Mueller."

After the Executive Committee of the SPD moved to Bonn, Sczesny had to send the material to Bonn, Friedrich-Ebert-Allee; at first it was sent through the office of the Chief of Police, and then, when Jess, a Christian Democrat, became vice-president of the police, the material was sent through the post-office with Sczesny's private address as sender.

The 12th Commissariat keeps a card index of hundreds of names of political rivals of the SPD, which are kept in 2 filing cabinets.

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In several cases Kriminalrat Ross has requested the KPD in Frankfurt, located in Gutleut Strasse, to send Communist groups to meetings of Rightist groups in order to disrupt the meetings. Once it happened that such a group of Communists who had been ordered to disrupt a meeting were arrested by a police squad who knew nothing of the previous arrangement. Ross told Sczesny

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that the resulting investigation must be conducted in such a way that nothing would come of it; and nothing did come of it.

In 1951 the independent "Police Union" (GdP) was established in Wiesbaden-Sonnenberg and was strongly opposed by the union "Public Service, Transport and Traffic." Ross ordered Sczesny to sneak into the meeting, if necessary as a DPA representative. Sczesny, posing as a reporter, interviewed the leading GdP members and wrote a ten-page report, which he immediately sent to the "Public Service, Transport and Traffic" union. This report contained the names of about 50 leading police officials who had participated in the first meeting of the GdP.

So much for the accusations made by Sczesny and published by Kurbjuhn.

These attacks against the office of the Chief of Police in Frankfurt were made for a reason. Johann Host of the 12th Commissariat was the one who had done most of the work in exposing the BDJ partisans of Waldmichelbach for the Hessian government less than a year ago. Last fall, Sczesny, an SPD member, was dismissed from the office of the Chief of Police, after he had been arrested for 3 weeks because of betraying secret information; he had sent the same reports, which he had sent to the SPD, to the BDJ.

Last January 1953, Sczesny contacted Paul Kurbjuhn, who is a reporter for the "Kasseler Post" and two other rightist newspapers in Northern Hesse.

Kurbjuhn listened to Sczesny's story and wrote it, made some changes at Sczesny's suggestion and then asked him to confirm the truth of the story, which he did on the last page of the manuscript with the following words: "I declare herewith, that all details described in the above report are true. I am at any time willing to take an oath on it." Frankfurt, 6 January 1953. H. Sczesny.

The next day Sczesny wanted to be more precise about his statement concerning the card-index file of political opponents of the SPD, but it was already too late. He cabled Kurbjuhn in Wiesbaden: "Impetative to stop publication. Conference necessary." But Kurbjuhn at that time had no phone at home; he did all his business with his editors from coffeehouses and restaurants. When he came home at 2 o'clock in the morning, he found the telegram, but all newspapers were already in print. When he called Sczesny in the morning at his new job at Braun-radio, Main Administration, Frankfurt, and told him that the newspapers were already out, Sczesny answered that it would just have to take its course.

The SPD press was furious. They accused Kurbjuhn of having been an SS member. But Kurbjuhn, who once was a commissioned officer and a volunteer for active service (in the Nazi army) turned the tables and, supported by the CDU and FDP, accused Minister-President Ginn. He stated that Ginn has even employed a former official of Goebbels's propaganda ministry and has made him State Commissioner for the emergency area in Northern Hesse. This is Prof. Dr. Wilhelm Dieckler, member of the State Government Council of Hesse, and a member of the All German Block SED; also deputy chairman of the OH/BEZ Landesfraktion.

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Then Frankfurt's Chief of Police, Dr. Gerhard Littmann, made the following statement: "Generally, all political meetings were watched by the 12th Commissariat, so that accusations made at any meeting against leading politicians could immediately be brought to their attention. And, therefore, not only the SPD, but also for instance (Dr.) Heinrich von Bretano of the CDU-CSU received information from the Frankfurt Office of the Chief of Police.

When Bretano heard of this in Bonn, he could not recall such an incident and threatened to sue Dr. Littmann unless he would withdraw his statement. Dr. Bretano said: "I have never .....received from the office of the Chief of Police in Frankfurt any kind of information." After this Bretano was not mentioned again in connection with this affair.

Kriminalrat Ross, who was being strongly attacked, asked the Lord Mayor of Frankfurt, Dr. h.c. Walter Kolb, an SPD member, to institute an official criminal procedure against him (Ross). Then Kurbjuhn decided to ask Sczesny again to confirm his statements made to Kurbjuhn about the 12th Commissariat, but this time before a notary public.

On January 30 Sczesny and Kurbjuhn went to a notary, Otto Ludwig Friedrich Ebert Strasse 42, Frankfurt, and there Sczesny made the following statement: "I, Helmut Sczesny, declare herewith, in lieu of an oath, that all statements concerning the 12th Commissariat of the Office of the Chief of Police in Frankfurt, made by me and published in the "Deutscher Markt" and in three Hessian newspapers, are in accordance with the truth."

Sczesny, however, added a supplement to his former statement about the card index file of political enemies of the SPD; he declared: "There were two filing cabinets which contained hundreds of names; among them were names of persons who worked for the Communists or who were suspected of being against the Constitution. The cabinets also contained names of persons who were not considered to be working against the constitution. They contained, however, no names of members or friends of the SPD."

Meanwhile, Paul Kurbjuhn in Wiesbaden became the secret favorite of the Hessian opposition parties, CDU and FDP. In his new office in Wiesbaden, Uhland Strasse, he started the "Hessenspiegel," a hystographed information service, which is used by the CDU, FDP, Bauernverband (association of Farmers), and the National Opposition to attack the socialistic state government. Since then, Kurbjuhn has been a thorn in the flesh of all those who are connected with Minister-President August Zinn.

Sczesny was the first to feel the revenge of the SPD. The Young Socialists of Frankfurt accused him of having been a member of the Communist cover organization "Helmut von Gerlach Gesellschaft." Sczesny defended himself and declared that he had become a member of that organization at the order of Kriminalrat Ross and that Ross had also paid his dues.

This statement caused Sczesny new trouble; he was prosecuted for having betrayed a secret order. With legal proceedings awaiting him, Sczesny then attended as a witness the disciplinary proceedings against Kriminalrat Ross, which were held in the small conference room of Ross' own division and lasted from February to April. The proceedings were conducted by Municipal Assistant Judge Kerger, Frankfurt. Kerger belongs to no party. When Heinrich Zinnemann, Minister of the Interior (Hesse), read the investigation's report to the State Parliament in early May, he told the members: "It would be too much to give you all the details of the investigations. Municipal Assistant Judge Kerger recommended that the disciplinary proceedings against Ross be stopped, because he had found that Ross had neither overstepped nor otherwise violated his duties; he only followed instructions given to him, having been at that time a competent member of the police force and later on the Chief of the Detective Commissariat."

Mention, however, was made of the keeping of two diaries by the 12th Commissariat. "This can be explained in that way that even Mr. Ross, as detective, had to acquire first adequate knowledge concerning practical administration procedures."

While Kurbjuhn, the reporter, was still wondering what Sczesny, who had given him two affidavits, might have said before the investigation committee, he unexpectedly received a letter from Frankfurt, dated 16 May. It read: "Dear Mr. Kurbjuhn, I ask you urgently to see me as soon as possible, as I have to make some definite decisions..... One important question for me is above all the getting of a lawyer. I have received some interesting offers from the "other" side. All else orally. Greetings. Sczesny."

Three days later, on 19 May, Kurbjuhn visited Sczesny in the reception room of Braun-Radio, Main Administration, in Frankfurt, Russelheimer Strasse 27. Sczesny reported: "It appeared that not Ross but I was the defendant before the Investigation Committee. Having been under constant pressure, I refused to answer several questions; but I have not taken back anything."

Sczesny continued that he was most worried about the investigations concerning the betraying of secret orders in the case of the "Bund der Deutschen Arbeitervereine." He had been told that the proceedings would be stopped; for that reason he would now above all need a good lawyer.

Again, two days later, on 21 May, Sczesny signed a receipt for 50 DM which he received from Kurbjuhn to whom he had given a written report of his experiences with the Investigation Committee. He stated: the facts which he had asserted in his former statement, as for instance, his reporting to the SPD Executive Committee in Hannover under a cover address, the spying on the meeting of the "Union of Police" in Wiesbaden, the great percentage of active SPD members in the 12th Commissariat, all these facts were never denied, but it was attempted to make it appear as if they were officially conceded.

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Thus, Ross had explained that the sending of reports to Hannover was necessary, because August Euper, in Frankfurt, who at that time was head of the "Socialist Action" (which has since been dissolved) was considered to be a great risk for the party, and, therefore, the Executive Committee had to be kept continually informed.

I had to choose my private address as the sender's address, because there was a Communist spy in our office, who, under no circumstances, was to know about the material sent to Bonn. Besides, these reports were not "secret" reports. I also discovered, for the first time, that the "secret" diary, had been rebound meanwhile, and that the red stamp "Secret", which it had before, had disappeared. Ross assured the Executive Committee that, when he told Szeszary to sneak into the charter meeting of the "Union of Police" in Wiesbaden, it was not an official order, but a private request. Szeszary then continued: Meanwhile Oberkriminalrat Kalk, Deputy Chief of Police, called me unexpectedly, and asked me to see him; I could choose the time for the meeting. Kalk said that Ross did not want to give me any trouble and a way should be found to settle this matter outside of court.

Kurbjuhn was not informed how this matter ended. Szeszary, however, told the rest of the story to his good friend Paul Luth in Offenbach. Luth was the former leader of the "Bund Deutscher Jugend" (BDJ); at present he is frequently engaged, together with Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, in writing the leading articles of the "Rheinische Merkur."

"I am just about to get out of this affair gracefully," Szeszary said, on 29 May, while visiting Luth in his apartment in Offenbach. He said that Kalk had told him that a way could be found that would rehabilitate Ross and at the same time also Szeszary.

When Szeszary asked Kalk if he had any authority to make the above statement, Kalk replied: What I am saying to you comes from the Chief of Police. A promise from me, if you do what we want you to do, is as binding as if the Chief of Police had given you the promise himself.

Then Szeszary employed a lawyer, Dr. Hans Lutz, 5 Schiller Street. Lutz immediately contacted the Chief of Police, Dr. Litzmann. Lutz then reported to Szeszary: "Litzmann wants nothing of you, Litzmann only wants Kurbjuhn to give an account of his actions and you are to help with it."

While the former head of the BDJ, Paul Luth, made notes of all Szeszary told him, Szeszary continued to reminisce about his activities when he was still with the 12th Communist. He told how Ross had once called the Communist riot squad to disrupt a meeting of the "Deutsche Union". Ross made the call from Szeszary's phone. When Szeszary asked if he had called the SPD, Ross answered: "No, I have called the KP (Communist Party), because our boys are much too lame."

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During that evening, Sczesny told Laeth more stories, which would have added new highlights to Kurbjuhn's article.

In the office of the Chief of Police, however, a solution was sought which would rehabilitate Ross and at the same time make Sczesny's statement appear credible and ruin the malicious joy of the CDU and FDP. On 1 June Sczesny then gave to his lawyer a "retraction." Both Kalk and Ruge had worked with Sczesny in Hugel's office for several hours before Kalk and Sczesny agreed to the document. Kalk promised that everything would be settled quietly and that nothing would be done even against Kurbjuhn.

Then four days later, the Chief of Police Littmann, handed over Sczesny's statement which affirmed that Kurbjuhn's newspaper articles "did not correspond in all points with what I have told him," and were besides "very biased." And in spite of the solemn affirmation, which Sczesny had given to Kurbjuhn, partly even before a notary public, Sczesny now declared: "In the interest of truth, I would like to correct Mr. Kurbjuhn's statements. It is incorrect that a secret card-index file of political enemies of the SPD was kept in the 12th Commissariat of the detective force in Frankfurt, and that in the 12th or in any other Commissariat, there was or still exists, a secret section, and that this section is performing informal services for the SPD, and that secret reports are being sent to the Executive Committee of the SPD, etc."

Littmann explained the change in the affair saying that already in early April Ross and also Mayor Kolt had asked for criminal proceedings against Sczesny and Kurbjuhn, accusing them of slander. Because of the change in the situation, Ross and Kolt must now examine "whether the criminal procedure against Sczesny could or could not be withdrawn."

"The criminal procedure against Paul Kurbjuhn, however, will now continue," Littmann said, "because Kurbjuhn had attempted in other cases to make an obvious false fact appear to be true, by requesting a solemn affirmation for his statement. Apparently, he believes that in this way he can escape the blame of being unscrupulous."

Helmut Sczesny was angry last week. He said: "That was all crooked and I shall not be so stupid as to commit perjury for the 12th Commissariat."

Kurbjuhn, Sczesny continued, is absolutely innocent. I, alone, am at fault, but no one can do anything against me. With my declaration of 1 June (namely: .....I would like to state in the interest of truth....) I had almost nothing to do with it; it contained almost no retractions, only that "secret material" was involved in the case of the 12th Commissariat.

"And I could make such a statement (Sczesny continued to say), because the Minister of the Interior had declared on 11 January that neither Ross

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with his reports to the SPD, nor, naturally, I with the same reports to the ESO, have transgressed in the matter of the criminal code, as these reports were really not secret reports. But previously I had been arrested for 3 weeks for sending these reports to the SPD and for betraying secret material."

The withdrawal of the statement before the notary public was a masterpiece of the art of misrepresentation; the others know that just as well as I do....."

And that way the SPD of Meise has given us a plain example of what to do if one wants to get rid of a disagreeable affair in an easy way.

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